A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, June 8. 1706.

I Should not have interrupted my needful, and I hope useful Observations on the Subject of the War, and the present Glorious Successes of our Armies abroad, but on an extraordinary Account, and a particular, which I doubt not may be as publickly useful in its Degree, as the other, both to warn the innocent from falling into the Dangers, which Avarice and unnatural Tempers may prepare for them; and a little to caution Persons enclin'd to the same Crimes, that they may avoid the Sin and Shame together.

I confess, I am sorry to see, there are such Crimes and such People to be found in a Christian Country, where Justice and Liberty are tenderly nourish'd, and carefully protected; but I cannot but think my self something oblig'd, to make a Fact attended with such black and barbarous Circumstances, as publick as possible, in order to expose the Crime; as to the Persons I am equally unconcern'd, and unknown to both Plaintiffs and Defendants; I shall single no body out, and where the Fact does it for me, I shall be as far from a partial Concealment; they that have put their Hands to so ill a Work, industriously expose themselves, and it is not in my Power to conceal it.

As to the Truth of the Fact, I have only this to say, it is plain and open; every thing has been attested in a Court of Justice already; I have Authentick Vouchers to every Article, and unquestion'd Authority for the Fact, the substance of which is contain'd in the following Letter; whose Original and Authors are not asham'd or afraid to be seen by any body that desire it.

Mr.

Mr. *REVIEW*,

'YOU have all along profes'd to be impartial in your Cenſures of things vicious and ſcandalous; and, that without Reſpect of Perſons you will ſpeak all Sorts of needful Truths, to which you have ſet your Hand in the Introduction to your Volumes of the Review.

'We herewith ſend you a true Hiſtory of one of the moſt villainous and moſt barbarous Actions, that has ever been heard of in a Proteſtant Country; and which we doubt not will fill you with Deteſtation at the Writing, and every honeſt Chriſtian with like Abhorrence at the Reading.

'It is aggravated with unuſual Circumſtances, and we cannot without ſome Horror let you know, that this black Scene has been acted by an own Mother and two Sons, upon her own Daughter and their own Sister; whoſe unnatural Proceedings we leave to your Cenſure, and come to the Fact.

'A certain Citizen of good Character and Repute, and a long Trader in *London*, dy'd about ſix Years ſince,——and being poſſeſs'd of a very good Eſtate; after providing for his Widow and two Sons, about 2800 *l.* in Money came to his youngeſt Daughter, beſides other demands yet undetermin'd.

'This young Lady being of Age to take care of her ſelf, and particularly ſenſible enough to diſcern, that her Mother and both her Brothers uſed her unkindly; and not at all backward to provide for her own Quiet, ſoon after her Fathers Death, took care to remove out of their Family; and that ſhe might not be at all at their Mercy, took Care alſo to ſecure her Eſtate; which ſhe had no ſmall reaſon to ſuſpect, they at leaſt grudg'd her the Enjoyment of, if they had no ill Deſign upon the thing it ſelf.

'Theſe, you will readily agree, were but mean Diſcoveries of a Perſon not capable to govern her ſelf,— and which add ſomething to the Deſperation of the following Attempt.

'Having remov'd from her Mother, and demanded and receiv'd Part of her Portion of her Fathers Eſtatefrom her eldeſt Brother, who was Executor; her next Care was to ſecure her Money, which ſhe had conſiderably improv'd, ſo as ſhe might not only have it ſafe, but improving; and to this End ſhe committed it to the Care of a Relation to her by Marriage, and an eminent Tradeſman of this City; who having, as it may be ſuppoſed, no great occaſion to borrow, was not very willing to allow Intereſt for it,— but was at laſt perſwaded to give a Note under his Hand for it, payable at 12 Months at 4 *per Cent.* Intereſt.

'The young Gentlewoman had ſome Uneaſineſſe upon her, about her Money lying thus; and after ſome time mov'd her Friend to give her a Bond for it, which he frequently put her off from, and delay'd, but at laſt, ſhe appearing very much diſſatisfied, told him very plainly, ſhe would have a Bond for the Money, or take her Money out of his Hands; at which, *ſhe ſays*, his Anſwer was, *very well, Miſs, I'll ſecure you for that*, which ſince has been moſt effectually perform'd, whether by that Gentleman's Concurrence or not, we do not determine; We hope he has known better.— Time will diſcover theſe things, as the Law takes its Courſe.

'It was not long after theſe things, when the following Method was taken with this young Gentlewoman; whether to ſecure her Money, and *take care of her*, as had been promiſed, the World may judge.

'About 3 Months ſince, the two Brothers of this young Gentlewoman, conſulting with a certain known Attorney related to the Perſon, who had her Money, what Meaſures to take with her; were adviſed, as we ſuppoſe, to petition the Lord Keeper for a Commiſſion of Lunacy againſt her; and that it might be the better obtain'd, they joyn HER OWN MOTHER in the horrid Attempt, and ſhe ſigns the ſaid Petition.

What

'What the Meaning of such a Petition 'was, we need not inform you, nor how 'by this Power, they would not only have 'her effectually in their own keeping, but 'her Estate also; allowing her perhaps 10 'or 20 *l. per Ann.* to be maintain'd as a 'Lunatick.

'To bring this to pass, great Rewards 'were given, *as we are inform'd*, for Assi-'stants from *Bedlam*, and from a certain 'infamous Apothecary, but a pretended 'Doctor for Lunaticks, to get her prov'd 'a Lunatick, and manag'd as such.

'The Attorney aforesaid being employ'd 'in this Matter, did, upon sundry false Al-'legations, obtain a Commission of Lunacy 'against her, himself being nam'd one of 'the Commissioners, the Proceedings of 'which were as strange as the other; for 'they got a Jury, who brought her in, or 'found her, *as they call it*, a Lunatick, with-'out ever seeing, examining, or question-'ing her, *Viva Voce*, which they ought to 'have done, and which some of them may 'yet live to answer for; — and one of the 'Pretences made use of to find Men so 'blind, as this comes to, *or to make them so*, 'was,— that they made some People, who 'either did, or *pretended to* belong to her, 'to acquaint the said Jury, that she was so 'raving Mad, they could by no means bring 'her to them.— How they prevail'd upon 'the Jury to give their Verdict, or make 'a Conclusion without offering to go them-'selves to see her, if she could not be 'brought to them, we cannot account for, 'THEY MUST.

'All this while the Gentlewoman was qui-'et, and innocently thinking of any thing, 'rather than what was contriving for her; 'but liv'd privately retir'd and very frugal, 'having sav'd near 600 *l.* in five Year, out 'of the Income of her Estate.

'The Design being fully ripe, and com-'pleated by the rash Verdict of the Jury 'aforesaid, the rest of the Scene is all Vio-'lence and Fury, for these People having 'provided proper Instruments, come up 'Stairs to this Gentlewoman into her 'Chamber, on some frivolous Pretences, 'the Time unusually late, and on a *Satur-*'*day* Night; they had to assist them, pro-'vided two Women and one Man; the Man, 'as we are since inform'd, a Door-Keeper 'in *Bedlam*, and one of the Women, a 'Nurse in a Mad-house.

'These coming into her Chamber, seize 'upon her in a most barbarous manner, 'hand-cuff her Hands behind her with 'Irons; bound her Legs together with 'Cords, and attempted to thrust a Handker-'chief or Cloth into her Mouth; and in this 'cruel manner carried her away by Force, 'put her into a Coach, and hurried her to 'one of our private *Bedlams*, putting her into 'the Hands of the aforesaid infamous Apo-'thecary; of whom the World will hear 'more hereafter.

'In this House, she continued about 6 'or 7 Weeks under the most horrid Treat-'ment that ever was heard of, by his 'express Command, and often in his Pre-'sence, and we want Words to express it 'to you; but the farther Particulars are 'preparing for the World, and to which 'we refer you.

'It may suffice to tell you for the pre-'sent, they kept her bound Hand and Foot 'in her Bed, such a one as it was, and ty'd 'to the Bed Post for several Days, reduc'd 'to strange Extremity, beat and pinch'd 'her by cruel and barbarous Wretches 'call'd Nurses, and forc'd nauseous Draughts 'down her Throat, *which they call'd Phy-'sick*; and which she, being apprehensive 'they design'd her Destruction, and might 'poyson her, *refus'd*; but they forc'd her 'Mouth open with Iron Instruments, and 'pour'd into her, what they thought fit, 'wounding her very much with their Vio-'lences and Inhumanities.

'In this horrid Condition, and under 'this most Villianous Treatment, they 'kept her about seven Weeks; no body, 'but whom that Apothecary permitted, 'being suffer'd to come near her.

'But at last some Neighbours, where she 'had lodg'd, and who us'd to visit her, 'missing her at her lodging, and having 'providentially gain'd some Hints of her 'Condition, were mov'd in meer Pity and 'Compassion to enquire into her Circum-

'stances,